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ST. CHARLES PARISH

2008 Water Quality Report

Billing Information & Water Quality
(985) 783-5110
Waterworks' Web Address
www.stcharlesparish-la.gov/waterworks

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. The employees of the St. Charles Parish Water Department work around the clock to provide top quality drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. For questions about the quality of our drinking water or about this report, call the St. Charles Parish Department of Waterworks at (985) 783-5110.

Parish President V.J. St. Pierre, Jr. is pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets Federal and State requirements. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, The Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact Robert Brou or Dondi Troxler at (985) 783-5110. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water.

The Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals/Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on the second page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2008. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

SOUTHWEST SECTION AWWA'S BEST TASTING WATER 2008

"LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA & ARKANSAS"

Parish President V.J. St. Pierre, Jr.

St. Charles Parish vigilantly safeguards the quality of its water. Our employees live in the same neighborhoods you do. When we turn on our taps we expect what you expect a reliable source of high-quality drinking water. We are proud to report that the St. Charles Parish Department of Waterworks has not had a violation of a contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

This brochure is a summary of the quality of water provided to our customers for the last year. It is a record reflecting the hard work of our employees to bring you water that is absolutely safe. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The St. Charles Parish Department of Waterworks is committed to providing you with information about your water supply, because customers who are well-informed are our best allies in supporting improvements necessary to maintain the highest drinking water standards.

The source of St. Charles Parish drinking water is the Mississippi River.

We are pleased to present to you this year's Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The source water protection plan is available from the Department of Health and Hospitals. It provides information about as potential sources of contamination to the water supply. This assessment includes a delineated area around our intakes through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by identified potential sources. The assessment will be available at the Westbank office for review upon request.

East Bank Treated Water Quality Roundup - LA1089001

We detected the following regulated contaminants, but they were at levels below the maximum allowable contaminant level. Additionally, we wish to inform you that these samples, except for lead, copper, haloacetic acid and trihalomethane results were collected at our treatment plant.

Substance Volitile Organics	Date	Highest Running Annual Average	Highest Level Allowed MCL	Ideal Goals MCLG	Units	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes	2008	0.063	0.080	0	ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acid	2008	0.038	0.060	0	ppm	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Substance Radioactive	**Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Highest Level Allowed MCL**	**Ideal Goals MCLG**	**Units**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Gross Beta Activity	7/21/08	1.00	15	0	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium	7/21/08	1.00	30	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits.
Substance Inorganic	**Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Highest Level Allowed MCL**	**Ideal Goals MCLG**	**Units**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Arsenic	7/21/08	2	10	0	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from glass & electronics production wastes
Nitrate-N	7/21/08	2.02	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewerage; erosion of natural deposits.
Flouride	7/21/08	0.880	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories
Turbidity	1/2/08	0.16	1	N/A	NTU	Soil runoff
Substance Organic	**Date**	**Highest Level Detected**	**Highest Level Allowed MCL**	**Ideal Goals MCLG**	**Units**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Atrazine	6/2/08	1.3	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicides used on row crops
Simazine	6/2/08	0.0686	4	4	ppm	Herbicide runoff
Substance Inorganic	**Date**	**% of Samples Meeting Limits**	**Lowest % Allowed MCL**	**Monthly % Meeting Limit**	**Units**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Turbidity	2008	100.00%	< 95%	100.00%	%	Soil runoff
Substance Inorganic	**Date**	**90th Percentile**	**Highest Level Allowed MCL**	**Ideal Goals MCLG**	**Units**	**Major Sources in Drinking Water**
Copper	2008-2010	0.200	0.3	1.3	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	2008-2010	1.00	1	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Microbiological	**Date**	**Result**	**MCL**	**MCLG**		
Microbiological	2008	No detected results were found in the calander year 2008				

Note: Turbidity is a measure of coludiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The major sources of turbidity include soil runoff.

Listed Above are contaminants detected in St. Charles Parish drinking water. All are below allowed levels. Not listed are the hundreds of other contaminants for which we tested that are not detected.

*** DEFINITIONS**

Non-Detects (ND) - *Labaratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.*

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - *One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.*

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - *One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000.*

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanogram per liter (nanogram/l) - *One part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years or a single penny in $10,000,000,000.*

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (picograms/l) - *One part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in $10,000,000,000,000.*

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - *Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.*

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) - *Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.*

Million Fibers per liter (MFL) - *Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of abestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.*

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - *Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.*

Variances & Exemptions (V&E) - *State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.*

Action Level - *The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.*

Treatment Technique (TT) – *A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.*

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - *The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.*

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - *The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.*

Questions Asked By Our Customers

DRINKING WATER OFTEN LOOKS CLOUDY WHEN FIRST TAKEN FROM A FAUCET, AND THEN IT CLEARS UP. WHY IS THAT? ***The cloudy water Is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water similar to the gas bubbles in beer and soda pop. After a little while the bubbles rise to the surface and are gone. This cloudiness occurs more often in the winter when the drinking water is cold.***

WHY DOES MY CONSUMPTION FLUCUATE UP AND DOWN FROM MONTH TO MONTH? ***This is usually an indication of a toilet leak. We recommend that you check your toilets by putting a drop of food coloring in your toilet tank. If it shows up in your toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. We also have toilet leak detection kits available to you in our office.***

SPECIAL INFO AVAILABLE

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

CUSTOMER VIEWS WELCOME

If you are interested in learning more about the water department and water quality, call our Customer Service office at (985) 783-5110. Contact Laurent Ruiz Jr. for individual or group guided water treatment plant tours. School groups are welcomed. The St. Charles Parish Council meets at 6 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month at the Parish Courthouse in Hahnville. All sessions are open to the public.